

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 213459

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ORIGIN FAA-00

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NEA/ARP:FGERLACH

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P 271857Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, MU

SUBJECT: REPLACEMENT OF CAAG MEMBER SMITH

REF: MUSCAT 1029

1. FAA WISHES ASSURE EMBASSY THAT AS IN CASE OF SMITH, CHOICE TO REPLACE WHEATLEY, SELECTION OF CANDIDATE TO FILL PERSONNEL LICENSING POSITION VACATED BY SMITH WILL HAVE HIGHEST PRIORITY AND BE SUBJECT TO CLOSEST ADMINISTRATIVE, PERSONNEL, AND MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY.

2. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT BOTH WHEATLEY AND SMITH WERE EXPERTS IN THEIR FIELD AND POSSESSED TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE FAR BEYOND THAT REQUIRED TO SATISFY JOB REQUIREMENTS OF THE AIRMAN LICENSING POSITION. ALSO SELECTEES HAD SPENT A GREAT DEAL OF TIME IN THE NEAR EAST, THUS, ENHANCING PROBABILITY OF THEIR ADAPTATION TO LOCAL LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS.

3. FAA PERSONNEL BID FOR ASSIGNMENT ABROAD ON VOLUNTARY BASIS LIMITING CHOICE TO CANDIDATES INTERESTED IN SPECIFIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POST/POSITION. FINALISTS ARE INTERVIEWED IN WASHINGTON BY

FAA MANAGERS WHO HAVE HAD WIDE EXPERIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL AVIATION AFFAIRS AND PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF FAA TECHNICAL

ASSISTANCE OPERATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT IN OMAN AND OTHER REMOTE LOCATIONS. DEPENDENTS OF PERSON SELECTED ARE SUBJECT TO HOME INTERVIEWS. RESUME OF BIODATA ALWAYS TRANSMITTED TO COUNTRY OFFICIALS THROUGH EMBASSY BEFORE SELECTION IS FINALIZED.

4. WHILE FAA WILL EXTEND EVERY EFFORT TO FIND CANDIDATE WHO POSSESSES THE REQUIRED TECHNICAL BACKGROUND AND SEEMS LIKELY TO ADJUST TO LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS, AS EMBASSY AND OMANGOV WILL APPRECIATE, ABSOLUTE ASSURANCE AS TO SELECTEE'S IN-COUNTRY PERFORMANCE IS NOT POSSIBLE. TO FURTHER SENSITIZE NOMINEE ON IMPORTANCE OF HIS ASSIGNMENT AS IT AFFECTS OMANGOV-USG RELATIONSHIP, FAA IS WILLING TO HAVE HIM BRIEFED BY DEPARTMENT OFFICERS CONCERNED WITH OMANI AND NEAR EAST AFFAIRS. KISSINGER

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